

Listing of Claims:

1 – 14 (canceled)

15. (new) A method comprising:

inputting information into a handheld device from indicia on an open shelving system, said information identifying an item to be restocked to said open shelving system;

inputting a current quantity of the items to be restocked to the handheld device corresponding to the input information;

transferring the information and current quantity from the handheld device;

comparing the current quantity to a par level of the items to be restocked; and

generating a restocking package in response to said comparing.

16. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein the indicia is a barcode and the inputting is performed by scanning the barcode.

17. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein said transferring includes transporting the handheld device to a location where the information and quantity are downloaded.

18. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein said transferring includes transmitting the information and quantity over a wireless link.

19. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein said transferring includes inserting the handheld device into a docking station located proximate to said open shelving system.

20. (new) The method of claim 15 additionally comprising selecting information identifying an item not represented by an indicia on said open shelving system and inputting to the handheld device a current quantity of the item to be stocked in the open shelving unit.

21. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein the open shelving unit is one of a fixed unit or a carousel.

22. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein the par level is set using one of a statically or dynamically determined level.

23. (new) A method of restocking an open shelving system of the type having a plurality of bins, each of said bins having a unique indicia associated therewith, said method comprising:

inputting information into a handheld device from indicia associated with each bin for which restocking is desired, said information identifying an item to be restocked;

inputting a current quantity of the items to be restocked to the handheld device corresponding to the input information;

transferring the information and current quantity from the handheld device;
comparing the current quantity to a par level of the items to be restocked; and
generating a restocking package in response to said comparing.

24. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein the indicia is a barcode and the inputting is performed by scanning the barcode.

25. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said transferring includes transporting the handheld device to a location where the information and quantity are downloaded.

26. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said transferring includes transmitting the information and quantity over a wireless link.

27. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said transferring includes inserting the handheld device into a docking station located proximate to said open shelving system.

28. (new) The method of claim 23 additionally comprising selecting information identifying an item not represented by an indicia on said open shelving system and inputting to the handheld device a current quantity of the item to be stocked in the open shelving unit.

29. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein the open shelving unit is one of a fixed unit or a carousel.

30. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein the par level is set using one of a statically or dynamically determined level.